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ARTICLE HONORS SOVIET PHYSICIST T.P. KRAVETS

Prof M.A. Shatelen,
Cor Mem Acad Sci USSR;
M.I. Radovskiy

Torichan Pavlovich Kravets was born on 22 March 1876 in the town of Bogoroditsk, Tula Province. On graduation from the Tula High School, he entered the University of Moscow, whose teaching staff at that time included such persons as N. Ye. Zhukovskiy, N. A. Umov, P. N. Lebedev, and N. D. Zelinskiy.

Kravets was attracted to research while still a student, and, on the recommendation of many professors (among them Zhukovskiy), he remained after graduation in 1898 to continue his studies in preparation for a teaching career. His independent work began with the time when he was appointed as a supernumerary teacher to the Moscow Engineering School of the Department of Transportation (now MIIT). The Physics Chair of this school was headed by the famous physicist A. A. Eykhenval'd. Kravets worked with Eykhenval'd for more than 15 years, i.e., until he was given a professorship at Khar'kov University.

Kravets' first scientific work, begun under the guidance of P. N. Lebedev and completed in his third year at the university, was devoted to the absorption and dispersion of centimeter waves. This work received high acclaim and was honored with a prize of the Amateur Society of Natural Science, Anthropology, and Ethnography. He also wrote many other articles on electricty, including, "Electric Current in Gases," published in the Physical Review for 1904.

Kravets became well known in Russian electrical engineering circles with his speech on "Electricity in Science and Engineering" at the Electrical Engineering Congress in Moscow in 1913. Another of his outstanding reports was "From Maxwell's Physics to Nuclear Power," read at a session of the All-Union Scientific and Technical Society of Power Engineers and later published in Elektrichestvo, No 9, 1946.

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A good part of his teaching activity was devoted to the subjects of electricity and magnetism. He lectured in courses on "Electricity and Magnetism" and "The Physical Principles of Electrical Engineering" at the Khar'kov and Moscow Universities, the Moscow College for Women, the Moscow Institute of Railway Transport Engineers, and the Khar'kov Institute of Technology. At present, Kravets teaches a special course on the electomagnetic theory of light at the Leningrad State University imeni Zhdanov.

Kravets is also well know as an editor of many scientific publications. His work in this field began with the editing, jointly with P P. Lazarev, of the works of P. N. Lebedev. The books, Science of Electricity, by Abraham and Becker; Science of Electrons, by Becker; and Theory of Electrons, by Lorents were published in Russian under the editorship of Kravets. At present, he is engaged in editing the four volumes of the complete works of M. P. Lomonosov in the field of physics. The first volume has already been published and has received high praise in the press (Uspekhi Fizicheskikh Nauk, No 9, 1950).

Kravets' work in the history of science includes the publication of Experimental Studies in Electricity by Faraday and the Selected Works of Lenz in the "Classics of Science" series. His work in this field, for which he was awarded a Stalin Prize in 1946, did not interfere with his teaching or with his research work at a laboratory which he heads in the State Optical Institute.

Kravets' services have been rewarded by the Soviet government with the following decorations: the orders of The Labor Red Banner, the Red Star, and the Symbol of Honor, and the medals "For the Defense of Leningrad," "For Valuable Effort in the Great Fatherland War," and others.

Kravets is held in high regard by other Soviet scientists. In 1927, he was elected chairman of the physics section of the Russian Physicochemical Society; in 1928, he was elected president of the society. In 1943, he was elected a Corresponding Member of the Academy of Sciences USSR, in which he is vice-chairman of the Commission on the History of Physicomathematical Sciences and also vice-chairman of the Commission on Scientific Photography.

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